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RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 3540
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1518
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 1985
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 JAKARTA 003101

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DEPT FOR EAP, EAP/MTS, DRL/AWH, DRL/IRF, EAP/MLS,
INR FOR CHARLIE ZENZIE
NSC FOR EPHU

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KISL](#) [ID](#)

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS -- PRESSING GOI RE DETAINED ACTIVIST
AND ON TREATMENT OF SECT

REF: A. JAKARTA 03062

- [1](#)B. JAKARTA 3042
- [1](#)C. JAKARTA 3041
- [1](#)D. JAKARTA 3015
- [1](#)E. JAKARTA 2878
- [1](#)F. 06 JAKARTA 13476

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Classified By: Pol/C Joseph Legend Novak, reasons 1.4 (b,d).

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY: Mission continues to monitor two key human rights cases. Based on Mission information, a Papuan human rights activist detained without formal charge since mid-October remains under detention. In the meantime, a Muslim sect remains under pressure, with the police placing more of its members in detention. In a November 7 meeting with a key government contact, Pol/C expressed continued USG concern about the two cases. Pol/C also raised the sect's treatment with a senior official of the influential Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI), stressing the need for tolerance and religious freedom. END SUMMARY.

ACTIVIST -- STILL DETAINED

[1](#)2. (C) Based on Mission information, a Papuan human rights activist detained since October 18 remains in police custody.

On November 2, Iwanggin Sabar Olif was transferred back to police headquarters in Jayapura, Papua, after spending several days under investigation at national police headquarters in Jakarta (refs A, C). The Deputy Police Chief of Papua told poloff on November 7 that the possible charge of "defamation against President Yudhoyono" will not be applied (apparently because the relevant act in the criminal code was ruled unconstitutional in 2006 -- refs A, F). That said, Iwanggin remains under suspicion for the crime of "inciting violence or disruption of public order," according to the Deputy Police Chief.

[1](#)3. (C) As of yet, in any case, no formal charges have been brought, according to Papuan human rights activist Aloysius Renarwin. By law, that is legal: police have up to 30 days to detain persons for investigation before bringing formal charges (ref A). In a November 7 conversation with Gembong Priyono, a senior advisor to Vice President Kalla, Pol/C

underscored USG concern about the case, urging the GOI to conclude the investigation and either file a credible charge or let Iwanggin go free. Priyono said he would look into the matter.

MUSLIM SECT IN TROUBLE

¶4. (C) The treatment accorded a small Muslim sect continues to be in the news. The Attorney General's Office (AGO) is set to decide on the legal status of the sect, which is called Al-Qiyadah (see background in ref E), this week. An office under the AGO can issue legally-binding determinations on the status of religious sects. Unless the AGO takes a neutral position, prospects for the sect look very negative. Since November 2, police confirm that they have arrested and questioned seven members of Al-Qiyadah, while several followers in Java and South Sumatra say they have renounced the sect and are returning to "mainstream" (orthodox Sunni) Islam. The leader of the sect remains in police custody. Upwards of 20 sect members appear to be under detention, with some of the sect's property seized or destroyed by Muslim vigilantes.

¶5. (C) Mission continues to raise the matter of the sect's treatment. Pol/C discussed the matter with Priyono of the VP's office. In addition, in a November 7 meeting with Ichwan Sam, Secretary General of the influential MUI and a member of the national legislature, Pol/C underscored U.S. concern over the matter. Ichwan Sam insisted to Pol/C that the MUI and other Muslim groups had a right on theological grounds to condemn the sect. While remarking that the USG did not have views on theology, Pol/C noted that MUI's regular edicts decrying the sect's alleged "deviance" may well have spurred vigilantes to protest and attack Al-Qiyadah properties (ref B). Pol/C stressed the need for tolerance and religious freedom. Sam remarked that he appreciated that, but nonetheless wanted the sect "banned" by the

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government as soon as possible.

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